

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has been both a challenging and an exciting time to be President ("La Presidente") of the California Botanical Society.

One challenge was locating a replacement for outgoing Editor Jon Keeley, who declined the opportunity to extend his editorship for another three years as a result of other demands on his time (including the next generation of Keeleys; congratulations!). Jon's exemplary performance will be a hard act to follow, so the Council was delighted when Bob Patterson accepted the rewarding challenge of editing MADROÑO. Bob will be learning the tricks of the trade from Jon on this issue, I understand.

As a major break from tradition, the annual banquet was held in southern California, hosted by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. This was one of the fruits of on-going discussions by the Council to make the Society a truly state-wide organization, not just the "Berkeley tea-club" as I once heard a disgruntled member refer to it. Bob Thorne was wonderfully appropriate as banquet speaker, in that the Society archives contain a rather scathing letter he wrote many years ago (which I was, alas, unable to locate) complaining about the lack of opportunities for participation in the Society by southern California botanists. We were therefore surprised by the disproportionately low representation from southern California; guess we northerners will have to issue a challenge the next time the banquet heads south!

Steve Junak, as Second Vice-President of the California Botanical Society (normally an office without duties, but not this year!), did a phenomenal job arranging a full two days of tours and a field trip to Santa Catalina island in addition to the evening banquet. Steve, Ed Schneider (Director of SBBG), and the staff of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden are to be commended and much thanked for their efforts. They created a hard act to follow, but I believe that June McCaskill, Grady Webster, and the rest of the crew at UC-Davis will give them a run for their money when the banquet is held there next year in conjunction with the Graduate Student Meetings (to be organized by Webster's student Brian Smith).

Another break from the Society's recent history was a return to some of the activism of earlier decades. This was largely triggered by AB 1903, a state bill passed in 1991 that effectively established the Board of Forestry as the biological regulatory authority in California. As one result, all biological consultants would either have to become Registered Professional Foresters (the generalist position) or become certified in each specialty of relevance (e.g., botany, ecology, wetland delineation) by 31 December 1993. Although some form of botanical certification may be inevitable, the Council felt strongly that AB 1903 was totally inappropriate and therefore sent a letter supporting SB 1094, which would reduce the authority of the Board of Forestry to a more appropriate level. The selection of Peggy Fielder, who has a long-standing interest in conservation issues, as next year's President was influenced by the belief that this and similar issues will remain important.

Progress was made by various council members on numerous other projects. First Vice President Roxanne Bittman, in addition to arranging an excellent slate of speakers based on a biogeographical theme, drafted an article encouraging membership in the California Botanical Society that was published in a recent issue of the California Native Plant Society Bulletin. Council Member Chuck Quibell prepared a letter along similar lines to be distributed to academic colleagues and institutions. Recording Secretary Niall McCarten worked on a resolution regarding qualifications of botanists doing field studies. Treasurer Holly Forbes and Corresponding Secretary Margriet Wetherwax notified unpaid members of their status, a massive and long overdue undertaking. We hope that next year will see the fulfillment of several other long-term projects, notably the membership directory and "fire sale" of back issues of

MADROÑO. Because of current abysmally low interest rates, the Council decided to wait several years before making awards from the Carter fund, established in memory of Annetta Carter to promote research in Baja California.

I wish to thank the above-named and all other Council Members (Elizabeth Neese, Mike Vasey, Financial Officer Barry Anderson, Past President Jim Shevock) for making my year as President both successful and enjoyable. I welcome the new officers and wish them a productive year: Peggy Fiedler (President), Dennis Desjardin (1st Vice President), June McCaskill (2nd Vice President), Roxanne Bittman (Recording Secretary), and new Council Members Brent Mishler and John Little. I also again commend outgoing Editor Jon Keeley for a superb job, and recognize Cherie Wetzel's tremendous contribution in doing our taxes yet again. I also thank all the members who participated in this year's events and encourage the rest of you to get involved next year!

## ANNOUNCEMENT

CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
JOINT PROCEEDINGS

Graduate Student Meeting and Annual Banquet  
February 19, 1994

Once again the Graduate Student Meeting and the Annual Banquet will be held on the same day, this year on Saturday, February 19, 1994, on the campus of the University of California at Davis. The graduate student meeting will focus on the presentations of finished research, research in progress, or research proposals by graduate students in all plant-related fields. Further details will follow concerning the Graduate student Meeting. The Annual Banquet will be held at the Buehler Alumni Center and will feature a keynote address by Dr. Leslie D. Gottlieb of the Evolution and Ecology Section of the Division of Biology at U.C. Davis. The title of his talk will be "How do *Clarkias* make different flowers?"

For further information, write either June McCaskill (banquet info.) or Brian Smith (graduate info.) at the Section of Plant Biology, Robbins Hall, University of California, Davis, CA 95616-8537 or leave a message at (916) 752-0617.